

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of November 5, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 11-15, 17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Niwano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,656); rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Niwano et al.; rejected claims 7, 8, 18, 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niwano et al. in view of Applicant's Related Art (ARA); rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niwano et al. in view of Jacobson (U.S. Patent No. 6,124,851). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The rejection of claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 11-15, 17, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Niwano et al. is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a transparent conductive film in a layer over the common electrode, the transparent conductive film electrically connected with the common electrode..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims 2-5 and 9-10, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

In the Office Action on page 3, the Examiner states, "at least one common electrode 8 on the first substrate; a transparent conductive film 6 (called "opposite electrode" in Niwano) in a layer over the common electrode, the transparent conductive film electrically connected with the common electrode 8 (Fig. 24a; col. 9, lines 54-61 – especially line 59)..."

Applicant respectfully submits that the numeral 8 in Niwano et al. refers to the "common line", which is electrically connected to the "opposite electrode 6" via the "through-hole 18" and is shown with slanted lines in Fig. 19a. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that "common

electrode” in claim 1 corresponds to the opposite electrode 6 in the context of the second embodiment of Niwano et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Niwano et al. fails to teach or suggest the feature recited above in claim 1, “a transparent conductive film in a layer over the common electrode, the transparent conductive film electrically connected with the common electrode...”

Claim 11 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 11 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “forming a transparent conductive film in a layer over the common electrodes, the transparent conductive film electrically connected with the common electrodes...” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11, and claims 12-15, 17, 20 and 21, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

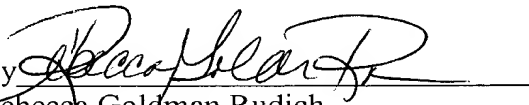
For at least similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, the rejections of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Niwano et al. and claims 7, 8, 18, 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niwano et al. in view of ARA are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. In addition, since Jacobson fails to cure the deficiencies of Niwano et al., Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 16.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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